REDISCOVERY OF *HYGROTUS SYLVANUS* (FALL) (COLEOPTERA: DYTISCIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT: *Hygrotus sylvanus* (Fall), not reported since 1890 and suspected of being extinct, was collected in Anoka and Isanti Counties, Minnesota, along with its closest relative, *Hygrotus laccophilinus* (LeConte). These collections represent new state records for both species. Brief habitat descriptions are given for both species.

While conducting a survey of aquatic Coleoptera of Cedar Creek Natural History Area (C.C.N.H.A.), located in Anoka and Isanti Counties, Minnesota, I collected 15 specimens of *Hygrotus sylvanus* (Fall).

Originally described in the genus *Coelambus* Stephens (Fall, 1917, 1919), it is now placed along with its closest relative, *Hygrotus laccophilinus* (LeConte) in species-group II of the Nearctic *Hygrotus* (Anderson, 1971).

This group is morphologically very different from other species in the genus, in having the clypeus unmargined, the body broadly ovate anteriorly, widest before the middle and pointed behind (Anderson, 1976). Both species are essentially concolorous (reddish-brown) above and below. However, *H. laccophilinus* is partially infuscate on the ventral surface.

Based on its previously known limited range (known only from the type locality and one other suspect locality) and since none had been collected since 1890, Anderson (1976) suspected *H. sylvanus* was extinct. The recent collections in Minnesota dispel Anderson's suspicion and represent a range extension of approximately 1000 mi.

Both *H. sylvanus* and *H. laccophilinus* have been collected from C.C.N.H.A. and represent new state records for Minnesota. Anderson (1976) reports *H. laccophilinus* as widely distributed from New England to the Great Lakes along the Canadian border. The collection records of *H. sylvanus* from Minnesota and New York, although disjunct, suggest a similar distribution.

H. sylvanus was collected from 3 separate localities at C.C.N.H.A. One specimen was from a small moss-lined pool in a floating sedgemat, a shallow, marshy area dominated by cattails and sedges yielded another, and the remainder were collected in small, temporary snow-melt pools that formed amongst sedge clumps in a mixed fen.

H. laccophilinus was collected in a greater variety of habitats. These include slow, weedy creeks and vegetation choked, shallow waters of small ponds, lake

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margins and marshes. It was also taken in the moss-lined pools of the floating sedge mat.

As these two species are quite similar in appearance, close examination is required for their separation. Anderson (1971, 1976) provides excellent keys for the separation of the species-groups of Nearctic Hygrotus and species keys for groups I, II and III.

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